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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Proposed Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Termination of Single-Employer Plans, Missing Participants

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of intent to request extension of OMB approval of information collection with modifications.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) intends to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) extend approval, with modifications, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of a collection of information under PBGC's regulations on Termination of Single-Employer Plans and Missing Participants. This notice informs the public of PBGC's intent and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Email: *paperwork.comments@pbgc.gov*. Refer to OMB control number 1212-0036 in the subject line.
- Mail or Hand Delivery: Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel,
 Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024-2101.

Commenters are strongly encouraged to submit public comments electronically. PBGC expects to have limited personnel available to process public comments that are submitted on paper through mail. Until further notice, any comments submitted on paper will be considered to the extent practicable.

All submissions received must include the agency's name (Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or PBGC) and refer to OMB control number 1212-0036. All comments received

will be posted without change to PBGC's website, http://www.pbgc.gov, including any personal information provided. Do not submit comments that include any personally identifiable information or confidential business information.

Copies of the collection of information may be obtained by writing to Disclosure Division, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024-2101, or calling 202–229–4040 during normal business hours. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Rifkin (*rifkin.melissa@pbgc.gov*), Attorney, Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024-2101; 202-229-6563. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 4041 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), a single-employer pension plan may terminate voluntarily only if it satisfies the requirements for either a standard or a distress termination. Pursuant to section 4041(b) of ERISA (for standard terminations), section 4041(c) of ERISA (for distress terminations), and PBGC's termination regulation (29 CFR part 4041), a plan administrator wishing to terminate a plan is required to submit specified information to PBGC in support of the proposed termination and to provide specified information regarding the proposed termination to third parties (participants, beneficiaries, alternate payees, and employee organizations). In the case of a plan with participants or beneficiaries who cannot be located when their benefits are to be distributed, the plan administrator is subject to the requirements of section 4050 of ERISA and PBGC's regulation on missing participants (29 CFR part 4050), including requirements to submit information to PBGC.

The collection of information has been approved under OMB control number 1212-0036 (expires March 31, 2023). PBGC intends to request that OMB extend its approval, with modifications, for another 3 years. PBGC is modifying the Standard Termination Filing Instructions to make clear that certain documents, already mentioned in the instructions, must be included with the submission of these forms. In addition, PBGC is making other editorial and clarifying changes to the instructions. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

PBGC estimates that annually 1,654 plan administrators will be subject to the collection of information requirements in PBGC's regulations on termination and missing participants and the implementing forms and instructions, and that the total estimated annual burdens of complying with these requirements are 41,735 hours and \$8,509,740.

PBGC is soliciting public comments to—

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodologies and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond,
 including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other
 technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g.,
 permitting electronic submission of responses.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Hilary Duke,

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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